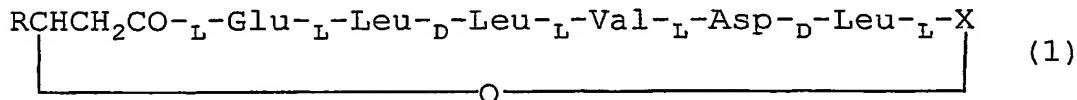


CLAIMS

1. An oil-based thickening gel composition comprising (a) an anionic surfactant having a lipopeptide structure, (b) water and/or a polyhydric alcohol having a valence of 3 or more, (c) a tocopherol compound and (d) an oil component.
2. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the addition amount of (c) the tocopherol compound is from 0.01 to 2% by mass based on the oil-based thickening gel composition.
3. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the amount of (a) the anionic surfactant having a lipopeptide structure is from 0.01 to 5% by mass, the amount of (b) the water and/or the polyhydric alcohol having a valence of 3 or more is from 0.01 to 70% by mass and the amount of (d) the oil component is from 30 to 99% by mass.
4. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein (a) the anionic surfactant having a lipopeptide structure is surfactin represented by the following formula (1)



wherein X represents an amino acid residue selected from the group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, glycine, serine, alanine, threonine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic

acid, glutamic acid, lysine, arginine, cysteine, methionine, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, histidine, proline, 4-hydroxyproline and homoserine, and R represents a normal alkyl group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms, an isoalkyl group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms or an anteisoalkyl group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms,
5 its homologue, and/or salts thereof.

5. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed
10 in claim 4, wherein X is leucine, isoleucine or valine.

6. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed
in claim 4, wherein (a) the anionic surfactant having a
lipopeptide structure is sodium surfactin.

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7. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed
in claim 1, wherein (d) the oil component is one or more
selected from polyoxyethyleneglyceryl ether fatty acid
esters and polyoxyethylene sorbitol ether fatty acid esters.

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8. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed
in claim 1, wherein (c) the tocopherol compound is one or
more selected from the group consisting of α -tocopherol,
 β -tocopherol, γ -tocopherol, δ -tocopherol, tocopherol
25 acetate and tocopherol succinate.

9. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed
in claim 1, wherein the polyhydric alcohol having a valence
of 3 or more is one or more selected from the group consisting
30 of glycerin, diglycerin, polyglycerin, sorbitol, mannitol,
xylitol, multitol, erythritol, pentaerythritol, glucose,

saccharose, fructose, lactose, maltose, xylose and trehalose.

10. The oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed
5 in claim 9, wherein the polyhydric alcohol having a valence
of 3 or more is glycerin and/or sorbitol.

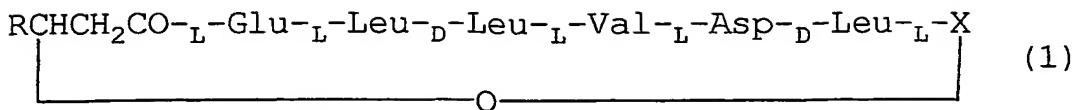
11. A method for improving storage stability of an oil-based
thickening gel composition, comprising addition of (c) a
10 tocopherol compound to an oil-based thickening gel
composition comprising (a) an anionic surfactant having a
lipopeptide structure, (b) water and/or a polyhydric alcohol
having a valence of 3 or more and (d) an oil component.

15 12. The method for improving storage stability of an
oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 11,
wherein the addition amount of (c) the tocopherol compound
is from 0.01 to 2% by mass.

20 13. The method for improving storage stability of an
oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 11
or 12, wherein the oil-based thickening gel composition
comprises from 0.01 to 5% by mass of (a) an anionic surfactant
having a lipopeptide structure, from 0.01 to 70% by mass of
25 (b) water and/or a polyhydric alcohol having a valence of
3 or more and from 30 to 99% by mass of (d) an oil component.

14. The method for improving storage stability of an
oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 11,
30 wherein (a) the anionic surfactant having a lipopeptide
structure is surfactin represented by the following formula

(1)



wherein X represents an amino acid residue selected from the
5 group consisting of leucine, isoleucine, valine, glycine,
serine, alanine, threonine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartic
acid, glutamic acid, lysine, arginine, cysteine, methionine,
phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan, histidine, proline,
10 4-hydroxyproline and homoserine, and R represents a normal
alkyl group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms, an isoalkyl
group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms or an anteisoalkyl
group having from 8 to 14 carbon atoms,
its homologue and/or salts thereof.

15 15. The method for improving storage stability of an
oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 14,
wherein X is leucine, isoleucine or valine.

16. The method for improving storage stability of an
20 oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 14,
wherein (a) the anionic surfactant having a lipopeptide
structure is sodium surfactin.

17. The method for improving storage stability of an
25 oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 11,
wherein the oil component is one or more selected from
polyoxyethyleneglyceryl ether fatty acid esters and
polyoxyethylene sorbitol ether fatty acid esters.

18. The method for improving storage stability of an oil-based thickening gel composition as claimed in claim 11, wherein (c) the tocopherol compound is one or more selected from the group consisting of α -tocopherol, β -tocopherol,
5 γ -tocopherol, δ -tocopherol, tocopherol acetate and tocopherol succinate.

19. A cosmetic comprising the oil-based thickening gel composition described in any one of claims 1 to 10.

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